

Women of West

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7 Dec 1964*

## Actress Startled Audience

### With 'Naked' Ride on Stage

#### ADAH ISAACS MENKEN

Adah Isaacs Menken was a magnificent and wildly provocative actress, who packed the theaters in the West when she starred in a melodrama called "Mazepa." In Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Virginia City, everywhere she starred, people long remembered Adah stripped and bound by the villain to the back of an "untamed steed" and sent forth into the world with the horse galloping on a treadmill past changing stage scenery showing mountains and plains and wolves and vultures and poor Adah crying out, "Where will these horrors end?"

Of course Adah was not naked as she appeared to be, but was clad in pink tights. The effect was, nevertheless, quite shocking.

Adah died in 1868 in Paris, but people, especially the men of the West, long boasted of having seen the "naked" girl on the horse in "Mazepa."

#### MRS. JOHN W. MACKEY

One lady of the West reigned as queen of the international

set of Europe, namely Maria Louisa Antoinette Hungerford, the late Mrs. John W. Mackey of Virginia City, Nev. Bad luck was hers first in 1854 when her family left New York for California and the gold fields. And bad luck it continued to be after she divorced her alcoholic husband and found herself alone.

As a seamstress in 1867, at 23, she married the bonanza king of the Virginia Consolidated Mine, John W. Mackey, and her good luck began.

Snubbed by society of New York as many of the newly rich were, she and her husband invaded Paris and London, where they were entertained by royalty that they in turn entertained. Beautiful as she was and poised, she held to the last her place at the top level, seeing her husband in later years when rare occasions brought him across the Atlantic.

Stiffen and renew old straw hats with equal parts of clear shellac and clear alcohol.



SENSATIONAL PERFORMER—Adah Isaacs Menken, performed on stages throughout the West, including Utah, in an exciting and dramatic presentation, which shocked her pioneer audiences.

Provo, Utah 10 Dec. 1964

Women of West

## 19th Century Pioneering Woman Urged Female Vote

By KATHRYN D. GROESBECK

Though most of the people in Wyoming in the 1860s were men, there was among them one forceful woman, 56-year-old Esther Morris, a woman respected by all. When she had a tea party in her shack in 1869, she invited the candidates for the legislature and asked each if he were elected he would introduce a bill in the new legislature to give women of Wyoming the vote.

Startled as they were at the indecency of such a request, the candidates agreed to introduce the bill. The winner of the election kept his word. On Dec. 10, 1869, the bill became law and in the following year the first woman in history cast her ballot in a public election, namely Louisa Ann Swain, a 70-year-old lady of Laramie.

The law later caused Wyoming some trouble and for awhile prevented Wyoming from gaining statehood. But fortunately other women in the nation were taking up the cause of Mrs. Morris, women like Susan B. Anthony, who would be remembered long after the resolute lady from the wilds of Wyoming had passed away.

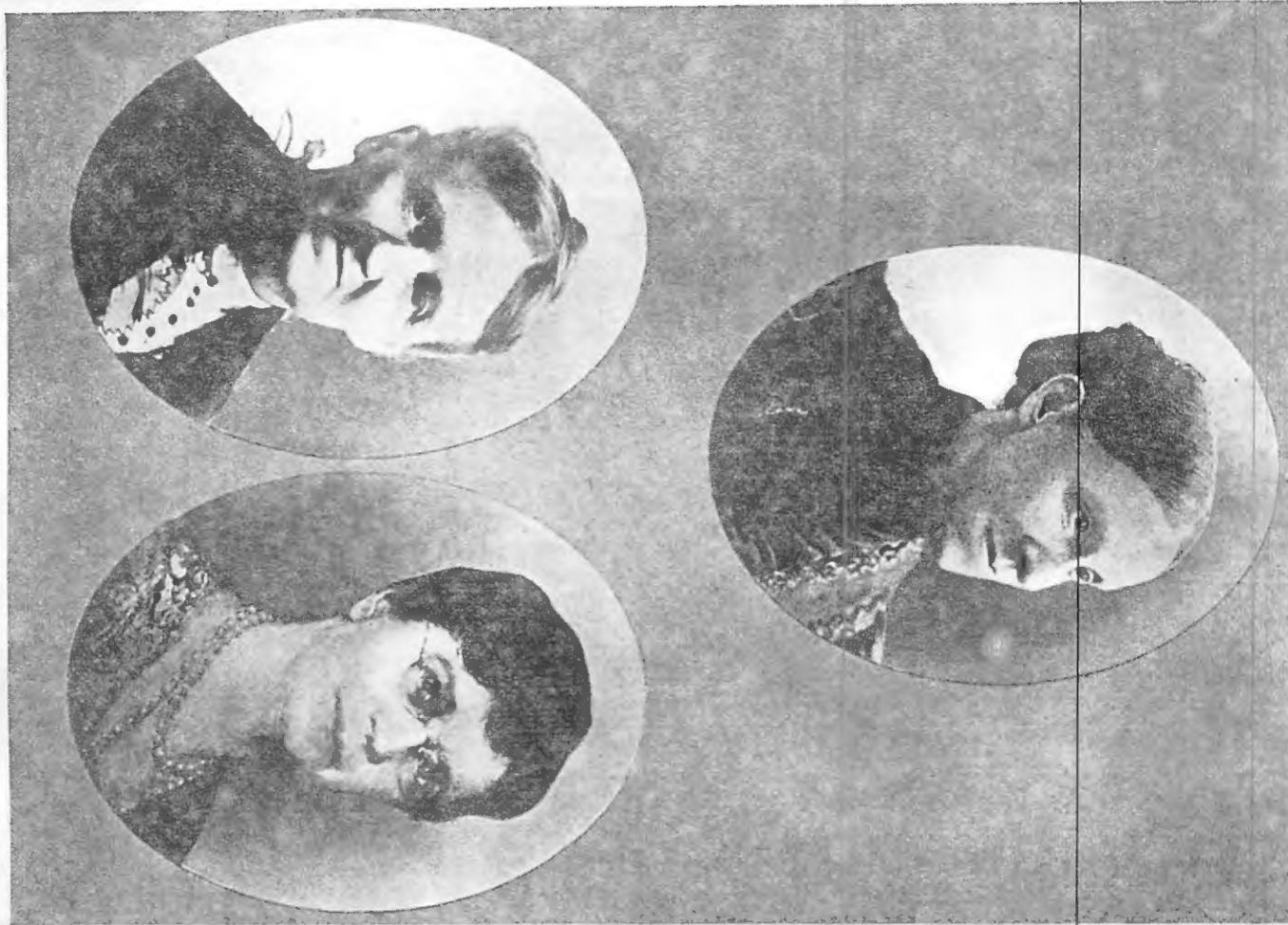


**FORCEFUL WOMAN**—Esther Morris, who was responsible for the passage in the Wyoming Legislature of the bill granting women the right to vote for the first time. Sculpture by Avard Fairbanks.

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Elmina Taylor  
Mother of singer p. 882  
Death May 1943



May Anderson  
Utah - storied domain - Alter Vol. II p. 393